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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 IO-12 AID-20 USSS-00 RSR-01 SCA-01

/138 W
---------- 119979
O 061810 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5749

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3092

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER, MX
SUBJECT: GUADALAJARA KIDNAPPING: SITREP - ETA CUBA

1. TO CONFIRM MY TELCON WITH ALBERTI AND TASK FORCE, I SPOKE TO INTERIOR MINISTER MOYA PALENCIA ABOUT 11 00 HOURS LOCAL. HE ESTIMATED FLYING TIME TO CUBA AT FIVE HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES (DEPARTED 0745 LOCAL , ETA 1310 LOCAL MEXICAN TIME). WILL REFUEL IN MERIDA.

2. HE FURTHER STATED THAT EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED OF ARRIVAL AND THAT TELESISTEMA MEXICANA (CHANNEL 2) IS TO STAND BY FROM 1530 HOURS FOR 1600 APPEARANCE OF CUBAN CHARGE.

3. WHEN ASKED IN PASSING WHAT GUARANTEE WE HAVE THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WILL IN FACT RELEASE CONSUL GENERAL LEONHARDY WHEN THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET, MOYA STATED, AS EXPECTED, THAT WE HAVE ONLY THE WORD OF THE KIDNAPPERS TO RELY ON.

4. HOWEVER, WE BOTH AGREED THAT, GIVEN THE KIDNAPPERS'
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OBJECTIVES (FAVORABLE PUBLICITY, ROBIN HOOD IMAGE, ETC.),
IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO FOLLOW THROUGH ACCORDING TO
THEIR SCENARIO AND FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD NEGATE GAINS
THEY EXPECT TO MAKE.

5. I INQUIRED WHETHER, IN UNLIKELY EVENT THEY DID NOT
RELEASE LEONHARDY, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED OF MEXICO' S
REQUESTING THE RETURN OF THE THIRTY PRISONERS. MOYA
REPLIED BY STATING HIS VIEW THAT MEXICO WXICO TO CONCEDE
TO THE DEMANDS OF LEONHARDY' S ABDUCTORS.

6. ANOTHER UPI ARTICLE IN THE ENGLISH- LANGUAGE
PAPER, THE NEWS, LISTED WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS STANDING STATE
DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH GUERRILLA TERRORISM.
THEY WERE:

--- ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE LIVES OF ENDANGERED U. S. DIPLOMATS
WITHOUT CAPITULATION TO TERRORIST DEMANDS;

--- ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND
THE GUERRILLAS;

--- AGREE TO SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR TERRORISTS,
IF THEY REQUEST IT, BUT DEMAND THEIR EVENTUAL PROSECUTION
AND PUNISHEMENT.

THIS WAS NOT CARRIED IN MEXICO CITY SPANISH- LANGUAGE PAPERS.

7. TYPICAL HEADLINES -- ALL PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED -- WERE:
" ALL DECISIONS BEING TAKEN BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT"; " U. S.:
KIDNAPPED DIPLOMAT IN THE HANDS OF MEXICO"; " U. S. LETS MEXICO
PROCEED ITS WAY"; AND " STATE DEPARTMENT: U. S. DIDN' T PRESSURE
MEXICO".

8. STORIES GENERATED BY MEXICAN JOURNALISTS EMPHASIZED THE
POSITION OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
THAT "... MOST IMPORTANT IS SAVING THE HUMAN LIFE". EL NACIONAL,
THE SEMI- OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER, HAD BANNERLINES:
" GOVERNMENT CONCEDES TO DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS TO SAVE CONSUL' S
LIFE".

9. IN A PAGE- ONE BOX ACCOMPANYING ITS LEAD STORY, EL NACIONAL
REPORTED ECHEVERRIA' S VIEW THAT " THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS
A HUMANISTIC PHILOSOPHY OF COMPLETE RESPECT AND PROTECTION OF
THE HUMAN LIFE AND A TRANQUIL SOCIAL EXISTENCE".
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10. " THE HUMAN LIFE, IN ANY CASE, IS OF HIGH SOCIAL VALUE
AND WE MUST PROTECT IT. WITH THIS ATTITUDE, WE INTEND FIRST

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TO PROTECT THE CONSUL' S LIFE", ECHEVERRIA SAID.
DEAN

UNCLASSIFIED
NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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